

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5**  
**Columbia River Joint State Hearing**  
**April 30 2012**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b>	Non-Treaty fisheries update Recreational salmon upstream of Bonneville Dam Bonneville Pool recreational sturgeon John Day Pool recreational sturgeon
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***Stock Status***

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 29 totals 21,572 adults. Based on the 5-year average, passage at Bonneville averages 26% complete (range 13% to 46%) by April 29 and the 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from May 1 to May 12.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today to review the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC did not provide an official update, but stated the run is unlikely to reach the preseason forecast.

***Non-Treaty Fishery Updates - Salmon***

- Two mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods (18 hours combined) occurred on April 3 and April 10. Landings include 6,179 Chinook. One additional Chinook was landed during the winter sturgeon season. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 4,318 fish, compared to the 5,900 available pre-update (73%).
- Winter season Select Area fisheries concluded April 5 and spring fisheries began April 19. Landings thru April 27 total 1,752 Chinook.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open through Sunday April 22. The estimated catch is 11,826 kept adult fish from 106,400 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver fish is estimated at 8,922 fish, or 70% of the 12,700 available prior to the run update.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border is open March 16 through May 2. Catch and effort has been minimal, reflective of the delayed passage at Bonneville Dam, totaling 169 kept and 18 released through April 29. Catch projections for April 30-May 2 include 60 Chinook kept and 8 released. Season total upriver Chinook mortalities for this fishery are projected to total 232 fish, compared to the 1,700 available pre-update (14%).
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) opened below Ice Harbor Dam on April 20 and in three areas between Little Goose Dam and Clarkston, Idaho on April 25. A total of 1,362 Chinook mortalities are available to this fishery pre-update.
- The current season total upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) in all non-treaty fisheries is 13,562 fish (62% of the 21,994 available prior to the run update). A final upriver run size of 149,000 is required to remain within catch balance and impact limitations for completed fisheries; the ongoing Bonneville to OR/WA border recreational fishery (through May 2); and Select Area commercial fisheries (through April 27).

- Recreational Chinook catch in the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border is projected to be well below the pre-update allocation by May 2. Weak passage and poor water conditions have resulted in poor catch rates.
- If a four day season extension (thru Sunday May 6) is considered, the expected catch would be about 500 fish including 450 Chinook kept and 50 released.

<b>Preliminary summary of 2012 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches (Pre-Update)</b>				
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)			
	Allocated	In Hand	Planned	Total
Mainstem commercial (complete)	5,914	4,318	0	4,318
Select Area commercial (actual thru 4/27; planned thru 6/15)	330	90	240	330
Below Bonneville recreational (complete)	12,666	8,922	0	8,922
Bonn to OR/WA border recreational (in hand thru 5/2 and projected through 5/6)	1,689	232	455	687
Snake River recreational (began April 20)	1,362	0	1,362	1,362
Wanapum Tribal	33	0	33	33
<b>Total Upriver Impacts</b>	<b>21,994</b>	<b>13,562</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>15,652</b>

- A final upriver run size of 172,000 is required to remain within catch balance and impact limitations for completed mainstem commercial and lower Columbia recreational fisheries; the ongoing Bonneville to OR/WA border recreational fishery (including extension thru May 6); and pre-update allocations for Select Area commercial and Snake River fisheries.

#### ***Miscellaneous Regulations***

- Due to past enforcement issues at the old Cascade Navigation Locks during the late spring and summer, Oregon staff have been working with Oregon State Police to develop language pertaining to hook regulations specific to this fishing location.

<b><i>Oregon Staff Recommendation: Bonneville Pool Recreational Fishery</i></b>
Effective May 16 – July 31, 2012, only single-point hooks are allowed when angling at Cascade Locks in the area between the boat ramp at the lower end of the locks upstream to the east (upstream) end of the lock wall.

- The proposed regulation is intended to reduce the potential for snagging which can occur at this location because anglers can vertically-jig their gear.
- This regulation is being proposed as a year-round rule in the 2013 Oregon sport fishing regulation process.

### ***Bonneville Dam - McNary Dam (Zone 6) Recreational Sturgeon***

- Under permanent rule, the 2012 Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam) recreational white sturgeon fisheries opened for retention effective January 1. The fisheries remain open for sturgeon retention until the annual guideline for each pool is met. Fishery status for all pools are as follows:

2012 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
Pool	Guideline	Catch <sup>1</sup>	Balance	Season
Bonneville	2,000	940	1,060	Closed
The Dalles	300	47	253	Ongoing
John Day	500	332	168	Ongoing

<sup>1</sup> Bonneville and The Dalles pools through March 31 and John Day Pool through April 29.

#### **Bonneville Pool**

- The sturgeon retention fishery in Bonneville Pool closed effective February 18 with the intent to use the balance of the harvest quota for a summer fishery.
- Based on public input, staff is proposing the following season for white sturgeon retention:

<b><i>Staff Recommendation: Bonneville Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery</i></b>		
Season:	June 15-16 (Fri-Sat) and June 22-23 (Fri-Sat), 2012	4 days
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam, including adjacent tributaries.	
Allowable	White sturgeon between 38-inches and 54-inches fork length	
Catch:	Retention of green sturgeon prohibited	

- Estimating catch for this fishery is complicated by recent changes in sturgeon population abundance and limited summer fishery data (effort and catch rates) for this pool.
- Based on catch rates observed in the 2011 Bonneville Pool summer sturgeon fishery, the projected kept catch for the proposed four day fishery is 892 fish, or 84% of the remaining balance. The season total kept catch would be 1,832, or 92% of the 2,000 fish quota.
- If catch rates are less than expected, additional fishing opportunity may be considered for July 7 (Sat) or July 7-8 (Sat-Sun) which will provide staff time to verify harvest estimates for the proposed fishery and to provide adequate notice for additional retention day(s).

#### **The Dalles Pool**

- To date, catch rates in The Dalles Pool have been lower than recent years and the fishery remains open with 16% of the guideline used through March 31. In 2011, The Dalles Pool closed on July 30.

#### **John Day Pool**

- Through April 29, the John Day Pool fishery has used 66% of the harvest guideline with 43% of the catch occurring during April 1-29. At the current rate, harvest is projected to reach the harvest guideline of 500 fish on or about May 20. In 2011, the John Day Pool closed on April 10.
- Considering the balance of harvestable sturgeon remaining on the John Day Pool guideline (168) and expected catch rates, staff proposes the following recommendation:

<b><i>Staff Recommendation: John Day Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery</i></b>
Effective 12:01 AM Monday May 21, 2012, close the John Day Pool and adjacent tributaries to white sturgeon retention.

### **Future Meetings**

- Staff is not proposing any hearings at this time. Hearings already in place include:  
Summer Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 AM Wednesday June 13, 2012

Fall Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 AM Thursday July 26, 2012

Both hearings will be held at The River Street Room (12 River Street) in Cathlamet, WA 98612

STREET PARKING ONLY